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FINAL EXAM

Infotainment: Infotainment is information delivered by the news that is not news, but rather entertainment disguised as news. For example, shows like “What Would You Do?” and “To Catch A Predator.”

Focus Group: a focus group is a group of people that journalists are dedicated to focus on when reporting, taking into consideration their likes, personalities, and personal feelings towards a subject matter. This can be determined through psychographs, surveys.

Original Investigative reporting: when a journalist goes out and does his or her own investigation on a new scandal or event etc. not already investigated, and obtains the information and reports it to the public.

Argument Culture: Used to determine what value the news should hold.

1.

The “Watchdog Role” refers to journalists as being watchdogs. This means that it is the journalist’s job to monitor wrongdoing of those held to a high degree, i.e. Companies, political figures, big organizations, etc. and reports it to the public, making it known and calling the people out who are responsible for the wrong doing. It is the journalist’s obligation to report the truth to the public.

Shows like “What Would You Do?” and “To Catch A Predator” weaken this role by bringing an entertaining factor into the seriousness of the “news” being presented. The utter disgust these shows represent about people in our country is not taken as seriously as they should be when presented as infotainment. For example, the show “To Catch a Predator” depicts people, sometimes teachers and doctors, as being weird and unusual. The show presents them in almost a humorous way, making it very funny to viewers and with that being said, their crime and disgustingness gets lost in the dust, so to say.

These types of shows mainly portray a funny, non-serious mood to cover a serious problem in our country today. It is hard for journalists to assume the watchdog role when shows like “To Catch a Predator” and “What Would You Do?” take crimes as these as entertainment.

2. John Stewart argued that “Crossfire” was “hurting America” because it was depicting an aspect of news that was not news that appealed to everyone.

3. K&R likened journalism to modern-day cartography meaning that journalism is like mapmaking. Journalists are mapmakers, meaning that they make the news and break it down into what is right and ethical and wrong in life. Without the right map, you will get lost. Without the right news produced by journalists, you will be lost in the world.

This is a good comparison to make. It is visually equivalent to a map. If you are driving along a road, and the map is unclear, you might get lost. If a journalist writes a story and the message is wrong or unclear, the public is misinformed and lost. Journalists are held to a high standard as mapmakers, giving the public the important information of what is right and wrong in society and even in life.

4. The advent of social media platforms both strengthened and weakened journalism’s ability to serve as a public forum. The advent of social media platforms strengthened journalism’s ability to serve as a public forum by allowing mass amounts of people to give their input on their country. This goes as far as Facebook, Twitter, Myspace, Blogs, etc. holding a power of citizens’ perspectives and interests. With so many people using these social media sites, it allows journalists to not only see what people want to hear about in the news, but how people feel about the news that is being given. It can be seen as a form of feedback to the journalists.

The advent of social media platforms also weakened journalism’s ability to serve as a public forum because there are so many sources floating around on the Internet and social media sites that it makes it hard for a reader to know who is telling the truth. It can also wrongfully take credit away from the journalist when there are so many sources about one story and so many different sides to these stories.

5. “Conscience” means, “What is the right thing to do.” Journalists have a responsibility to conscience. This means that is the journalist’s digression, based on ethics, what the right thing is to do when reporting. Journalists have to appeal to the consumers and to their companies that they work for. However, there are times when the journalist cannot exercise this responsibility:

1. The journalist is faced with a situation where he or she needs to turn a story into the company and has a strict deadline. If the journalist did not hand in the story, he or she would be fired. The journalist, however, feels that the story will negatively affect people or victims in the process.

2. The journalist is faced with a personal experience or feeling towards a matter, but cannot be biased in delivering the message to the public although they know that something was wrong, they have to report it as strict facts.

ESSAY:

In this essay I will discuss what role citizens currently play in the news gathering/making process, what they are doing well, and in what areas they need to improve/become more active in upholding their responsibilities. I will then reflect on my own performance as a citizen/consumer of news and discuss what I can do to become a better citizen and consumer of news.

Citizens currently play an important role in the news gathering/making process by being a part of the news in general. Citizens first get information from many sources, showing what they are interested in; who they are interested in hearing about, and why. The citizens allow journalists to see their interest and form a want vs. need relationship. The journalists gather their information based on what the citizens want to hear and then the journalists take that information and make it into a story that is important. Citizens help journalists balance out the news based on likes, dislikes, and diversity. Journalists and citizens work hand in hand for society.

Citizens are retaining a myriad of sources from all different places: Internet, TV, Magazines, you name it! The thing that citizens are doing well is watching. Citizens are watching the news and reading the news. The focus on what citizens are doing well has much to do with the people around them. Social media plays a major role in people’s lives. Many social media sites contain news, some more than others. The more that people see news, the more routine it will become, and the more they will be interested. However, this rule does not apply to everyone, many people keep quiet and let others speak for them when trying to get what they want from journalists. Many people also get bored with the news, but at the same time, they’re the people who do not stand up and say what they want to hear. Citizens need to improve on asserting what they want and need to hear. They need to do so by contacting news headquarters and being active in the community.

As a citizen I have grown into my society, I like to say. I had not been interested in the news or newspaper growing up. I had not been interested in politics or government discussion. I realize that it was just because I was ignorant. I felt I knew too little to even care, but I found that in time, if you take the time to learn about important news, then it all of a sudden becomes very interesting. Although it was a slow start, I feel as if I continue to learn and stay involved, I can become a better citizen not only for me, but I can potentially impact someone someday. The more I consume, the more I know, and the more chance I can say that I have a say in this society.

In this essay I have discussed what role citizens currently play in the news gathering/making process, what they are doing well, and in what areas they need to improve/become more active in upholding their responsibilities. I also reflected on my own performance as a citizen/consumer of news and discussed what I can do to become a better citizen and consumer of news.